



Foggy Bottom News

May 2004

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 46, No. 7

WG Hotel Elimination Is Not A Done Deal

By Rhonda Crane

Is the President of the Foggy Bottom Association a self-appointed oracle for the Zoning Commission, so that if he decrees something, it shall happen? His words of prediction are only his opinion and do not represent the views of the Zoning Commission. They are no more than an advocacy pitch to his neighbors to accept money offered by the developer in exchange for land under the hotel.

Listen hard: it ain't over until it's over. And then some. The Zoning Commission heard two days of extensive testimony from both sides concerning whether the master plan (the so-called "Planned Unit Development") for the Watergate Complex should be changed to remove the Watergate Hotel and replace it with an apartment house. Proponents would have this community believe that change is inevitable. It is not.

Going Dark is Highly Unlikely

Our worst nightmare is that if the hotel is not converted into apartments, it will be transformed into a cheap motel or shut down completely. This is the "fear" that has scared some Watergate residents into accepting loss of the hotel. At the zoning hearing March 4, Monument's attorney deliberately

Hotel, to page 7

Chair of Committee of 100 to Speak at FBA Meeting

Barbara Zartman, chair of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, will speak at the April 26 meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association. It is scheduled for the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a presentation by Ann Harvey Yonkers of FreshFarm Markets to discuss a proposal to establish a farmers market in Foggy Bottom in 2005. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City was founded 80 years ago as an independent voice for the citizens of the nation's capital. Its interests include all matters pertaining to land use in Washington, D.C., including planning, transportation, parks and environment, zoning and historic preservation. It works to protect the District's L'Enfant and Macmillan plans, as well as defending the Height Act and the Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Zartman has been with the U.S. Commerce Department, and in 1989 became Deputy Director of the Peace Corps. A resident of the Georgetown area, she has been active in the Citizens Association of Georgetown and on her local ANC. Long dedicated to the improvement of our city, she is a talented, articulate and knowledgeable speaker.

City Official Promises Results



City Administrator Robert Bobb with FBA President Ron Cocome

D.C. City Administrator Robert C. Bobb, appearing at the March 29 FBA meeting, promised action by city officials to correct the high-intensity lighting on Virginia Avenue, which has angered Watergate and other residents since its installation.

Officials from the D.C. Department of Transportation, who attended the meeting, were asked by Bobb and others to rectify the "stadium-intensity" lights and to increase its communication with the residents. They indicated it would take several months to purchase and install new lower-intensity bulbs.

Bobb also told the crowded room that he is planning a review of the Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, which many residents feel in dire need of reform. As far as crime is concerned, he is visiting daily a "hot spot" in the city to assess MPD's performance and needs.

At the beginning of the meeting, resident Ellie Becker presented to Bobb a three-page memo listing examples of DDOT's non-re-

Bobb, to page 6

Update

WG East Votes Aye

The membership of the Watergate East Cooperative narrowly approved the transfer of the Watergate Hotel to a condominium apartment. The vote on April 12 was 50.65% in favor and 49.35% against. A total of 1100 votes were cast, based on the number of shares in the cooperative; shares are allotted according to a number of criteria such as square footage, date of purchase, etc.

Lanciano Heads 207

Lt. Philip Lanciano will be in charge of the new Police

Area 207 when the new system goes into effect in May. The boundaries are 17th Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, 22nd Street, N Street, Rock Creek, and south into the monumental area. Lt. Lanciano has been in charge of the area east of 22nd Street (the current PSA 208), and is well known from frequent appearances at ANC meetings. Lt. David Hutchinson, who headed the current PSA 207 (west of 22nd Street), is now with the Sixth MPD District. The new PSA will be staffed by 24 officers.

Update, to page 4



FBA Vice President Barbara Spillinger chats with PSA 207's Lieutenant Philip Lanciano.

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

Barbara Zartman

Committee of 100 on the Federal City

Monday, April 26, 2004

The Melrose Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, May 24, 2004)



St. Mary's Court

25 Years of Community

A project that seemed unattainable 40 years ago, when clergy and parishioners of St. Mary's Episcopal Church first envisioned the dream of having an affordable housing facility for seniors in Foggy Bottom, will in fact celebrate its 25th Anniversary on May 22 and 23.

The dedicated resourcefulness of a former rector, Rev. John E. Wilbur, and his parish must be credited for bringing the need to the attention of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, who sponsored the project, as well as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development who financed this most remarkable dream of providing safe, comfortable housing for the elderly.

The anniversary celebration will begin on Saturday, May 22, with a 5:00 p.m. concert at the GW Media

Building featuring the Metropolitan Baptist Church Gospel Choir, followed by a reception. Concert tickets are \$30.00 per person. The Media Building is located at 21st and H Streets, N.W.

On Sunday, May 23, the celebration will focus on St. Mary's Court itself, with invited dignitaries representing the Diocese of Washington, the Federal Government, as well as community supporters. Refreshments will be served at the event, set for 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Raffle tickets for an 8-day Carnival Cruise to the Bahamas will be available at both events at a cost of \$5.00 each. Tickets for the May 22 concert as well as raffle tickets may be purchased at the front desk of St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. For additional information please call 223-5712.

Bylaws Changes Proposed by FBA Board

The Executive Board of the Foggy Bottom Association is proposing several amendments to the Bylaws, to be voted on at the May 24 meeting. The current bylaws require printing of the proposed changes 15 days prior to a vote, and that they be announced at a prior FBA meeting.

A major amendment would require that the term of Board members be three years rather than one, and that two ex officio members of the Board (FBN editor and immediate past president) would no longer be voting members. At the May meeting, the membership will also be asked to approve measures which would allow the Board terms to be staggered. Also to be voted on is a provision to change from 30 to 60 days the time when dues need to be paid to qualify to vote at the June membership meeting. Several other proposed changes relate to committees, e.g., deleting a requirement that the Nominating Committee members be approved by the membership; another would waive secret ballots if there is only one nominee.

The full text of the amendments will be found elsewhere in this issue, and limited copies of the current bylaws will be available at the April meeting.

Foggy Bottom Folks

It just won't be the same after the departure for California of **Marifran Langvardt**, so long on the Foggy Bottom scene. She has plans to go west, specifically to a community near the homes of her children (near by not too near!) She has been at St. Mary's Court for 20 years, first as a volunteer and more recently as Executive Assistant to the Director. She is also well remembered for her years on the Women's Board of the GW Hospital. Her retirement from the Court and the move is set for early June. She will be missed.

There are a couple of "Foggy Bottom Folks" who may be only "temporary" residents but are due a special kudo from the FBN Editor and any other residents who enjoy the paper. They are two GW students who have been the paperguy and papergal for us this past year. They are the ones who ride around and jump in and out of a car dropping packs of FBNews issues at about 50 stops around the neighborhood. They rate an early thank-you because school will be out by the time the next issue comes out. So—many thanks to **Jackie Andes** (from New Jersey) and **Adam Drexler** (from Massachusetts) for their hard work and for letting Bob and Ed and yours truly enjoy their company, as well as benefit from their young legs!

There is a new—but temporary—head librarian at the West End Library. His name is **Anthony Porter**, and he hails from the Petworth Branch on Georgia Avenue. WEL's own **Barbara Kubinski** has been temporarily assigned to Petworth, and will be back after a 90-day assignment.

May 2004

Volume 46, No. 7

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. Its 5,500 copies are distributed to residences and businesses in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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5:00 p.m. Young Adults Fellowship

Welcome Spring with Music at the United Church

May 2: Matt Mehaffey, Vocal Ensemble

May 9: Sara Daneshpour, Piano

May 23: Barbara Peterson Cackler, Piano

Concerts begin at 3:00 pm

Free admission; donations welcome

Becker Beat**A Special Salute**

As my time as FBNews editor winds down, I am taken with a desire (almost a compulsion) to extol the Foggy Bottom I knew in my early years here, and some of the people who made (and still make) contributions to its charm and livability. Can't name them all, but I can at least point out a few. More in the next two issues.

FBNews readers have heard often about how different it was in the 1960s and 1970s. Most houses and apartments were occupied by tax-paying residents; most neighbors knew each other, helped each other, socialized, and joined in various community activities. Remember the block parties on I Street and in the St. Paul's parking lot? The university quietly co-existed east of 23rd Street; some residents hardly knew it was there.

O, for the good old days! Please forgive the delving into nostalgia.

Two names come to mind as "heavies" in the long-drawn-out battles to defend our neighborhood—Maria Tyler and Dorothy Miller.

Maria, as I have said many times accomplished, with help, several significant, longterm improvements over the years, among them: the Foggy Bottom Historic District; the renovating of K Steet; the bus ban; and the saving of the historic Cooper Houses.

Dorothy continues her 24-7 efforts, as current chair and long-time undergirding of the ANC, attending and often testifying at every hearing affecting our area. While her bombastic demeanor, especially against GW, is not everyone's cup of tea, she truly is the "Foggy Bottom Watchdog," always on the alert in our behalf.

My hat is off to both—only figuratively, of course, since I no longer wear a hat!

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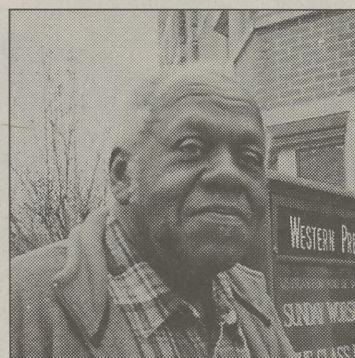


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**Sir Gaston of Paige**

By Ellie Becker

Sir Gaston of Paige is the whimsical title bestowed by Roz Freund, my co-interviewer, on the friendly Baptist sexton at Western Presbyterian Church. As this is being written (although it may be published later), the first of Gaston Paige's spring and summer array are blooming alongside the stone church at 24th and Virginia Avenue. Now the narcissuses (or are they narcissi?) are lined up in front of the row of tulip trees.

His birthplace is a town in Madison County, Virginia, which he says is no longer on the map because it lost its post office. It is named Uno, and an apocryphal story claims it received that designation when someone asked, "Where did you get your bootleg booze?" The reply: "U-No." His brother is still in that area, an

ordained Baptist minister. Gaston, of course, rarely can attend Sunday Baptist services.

Gaston first came to FB in 1950 to park cars near the Wax Museum, the Washington Cab Company (where the Watergate and Kennedy Center now stand), and the People's Life Insurance Company (now the Saudi Embassy). Cars parked then for 20 cents a day. Oddly enough, or mayhap it's not so odd: he has taken over the parking of the congregation's cars on Sunday in the basement garage at the church.

If anyone can tell you about changes in the neighborhood, it is Gaston. He started in 1960, when C. Stewart McKenzie was pastor, and the church was at 19th and H Streets. Reverend John Wimberly is now the pastor. Gaston was there during the move to 24th Street to make way for a mammoth International Monetary Fund building. The new structure, across the street from St. Mary's Court, has led to change after change, and a whole new group of parishioners and acquaintances. Very favored among them are the seniors he has encountered, whom he describes with the sentence: "Older people are so cool."

Gaston has gotten to know many St. Mary's Court residents because he has his own moving company, and has become "the mover of choice" for the senior residence. Roz Freund, one of his customers, recalled vividly how he not only moved their belongings, but tuned in so well to her somber mood, and treated her and her treasured piano as if they were made of glass. Many World Bank and IMF employees have used his services, and he believes his moving work has taken him to over 25 states.

When we prepared to take his picture, we felt the most appropriate place was outside where passersby, many of whom have become his friends, see him often. When asked if he knew how many "little old ladies" he has talked to, he replied, "Lord, help me, and bless their hearts. I love 'em."

Gaston has a special connection to the little old ladies and other humans as well, and exhibits his affection with a smile, especially dear to the lonely ones in our neighborhood.

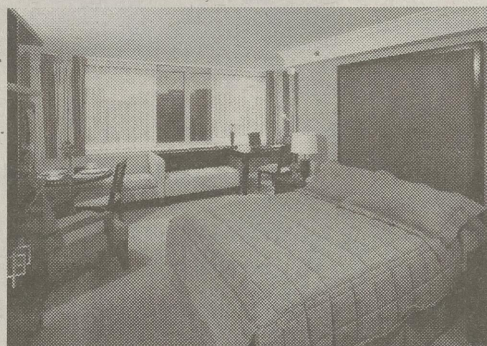
And if you happen to pass by on a blessedly lovely day, he will assure you that "this is a Baptist day."

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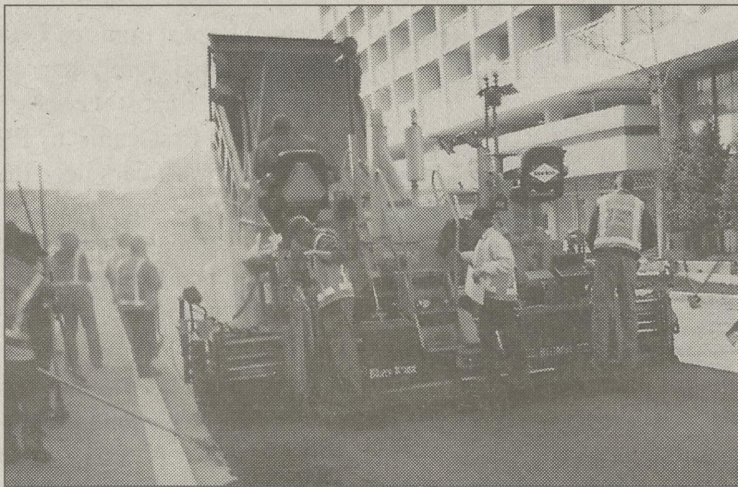
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Virginia Avenue Finished at Last

The renovation of Virginia Avenue has at last been completed, ending a multi-year project to upgrade the bridges, streetlights and roadway. On the day before Easter up to 20 pieces of equipment descended to "mill" the roadbed (leveling the surface by scraping old material away), and to lay down a new layer of asphalt. Except for a very small strip, it was completed on April 17. It had been delayed until warmer weather allowed the asphalt to be produced and available.

The project manager told the News they wanted to get it done quickly to lessen the traffic tieups. All main lanes



of Virginia Avenue were paved that day, with lane-striping to follow a few days later.

The only portion not being done under this project is the westbound service road

between 23rd and 24th Streets, which is the responsibility of GW and Clark Construction upon completion of the construction of the dormitory.

Update, from page 1

Court Says Dorm Does Not Encroach

A D.C. Court has ruled that the dormitory at 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue does not encroach on the property of Donald W. Kreuzer, longtime resident and property owner. The new 700+-bed dormitory is nearing

completion on land beside and behind three houses he owns.

Kreuzer claimed that the building, which cantilevers over his northernmost house, was over the property line and detrimental to his interests. Last October, the judge in the case denied a request for a stop-work order on the building.



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St. Paul's Presents Max Wittges Recital

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, St. Paul's Episcopal Church will present a recital by bass-baritone Max Wittges, accompanied by Music Director Jeffrey Smith, noted organist. The program will include music by Robert Schumann, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi and Richard Wagner.

Wittges has sung at opera stages throughout Europe and the U.S., and is known for per-

formances which encompass a vast array of opera repertoire. His most recent roles are as Wotan in Richard Wagner's Die Walkure and Boris in Boris Godunow at the Staatstheater Braunschweig, Germany.

Tickets are available at the door: \$15; students and seniors, \$10. Info is available at www.stpauls-kst.com, or 333-2020. The church is located at 2430 K Street, N.W.

Fourteen FB/WE Sales Marked in March

During March, 14 home sales in the FB/WE area were recorded. The list of these sales by various agents was compiled by realtor Tom Murphy (625-5342).

Address	Building	Bed/ Bath	Sale Price	Date
2310 N	Emerson House, 4th fl.	1/1	326,000	3/1
1155 23rd	Ritz Carlton, 4th fl.	1/2	595,000	3/1
1101 New Hamp.		1/3.5	1,300,000	3/3
2475 Virginia	Potomac Plaza, 8th fl.	2/2	390,000	3/10
1155 23rd	Ritz Carlton, 8th fl.	1/2	800,000	3/12
955 26th	Griffin, 2nd fl.	1/1	370,000	3/15
950 25th	Claridge House, 10th fl.	0/1	147,000	3/17
2201 L	Carriage House, 4th fl.	0/1	201,000	3/18
961 25th		2/1.5	485,000	3/18
931 25th		4/3.5	860,000	3/19
1099 22nd	West End Place, 10th fl.	3/2.5	623,000	3/20
955 26th	Griffin, 2nd fl.	1/1	354,000	3/26
922 24th	Jefferson House, 4th fl.	1/1	265,000	3/30
2130 N	Hastings Court, 4th fl.	0/1	219,000	3/30

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What to Do, What to Do

Spring—and Student Parties—Are Here

As spring comes, the potential disturbance of student parties looms large. (Some are also held in the winter, but beware the spring!)

Most residents can understand being a little disturbed on Friday and Saturday nights until a somewhat reasonable hour. But they should not have to stand weeknights and Sunday nights without sleep. Here's what to do:

1. If asking politely that they quiet down doesn't work, call 311 and ask that they send an officer. Record the time and the name of the person spoken with. Leave your phone number so the police can contact you if they have questions. Often a party will quiet down when they see a police car; you need to be available to reinforce your request, and to insist that the officer return later to check. Somehow parties don't just die.

2. If it seems that a police officer does not answer the call, make another 311 call with a second request. Again make a record.

3. Call the Second District Police station the next day, and report the disturbance to the Commander's office, especially if police did not respond. Report unanswered calls, including times and names of persons spoken with. They are supposed to work for us. Demand that they do!

New complaint procedure published

In response to increasing complaints from residents about student misbehavior, GW has published a new set of guidelines, as follows:

Information for neighbors of GW. If you have a GW-related concern regarding violations of the law and/or city ordinances, you may contact:

**Metropolitan Police at 311*
or
University Police Dept.
994-6110**

When contacted, the University Police Department (UPD) will respond to the concern, investigate, and attempt to resolve the problem. UPD will document its actions and forward a report to the appropriate campus departments.

University Relations will follow up with the community members regarding the complaint if/when contact information is provided. When appropriate, GW does adjudicate cases involving student behavior on and off campus.

Additionally, the Community Living and Learning Center provides a booklet to students moving off campus on being good neighbors. The booklet, "The [GWU] in the Community: GW Guide to Living Off Campus," is mailed to students who decide not to continue residing in campus housing. The guide can be found on-line at http://gwired.gwu.edu/cllc/misc/living_off_campus.pdf.

*UPD's jurisdiction does not extend to off-campus private property. If the concern regards behavior in a private apartment building or residence, please contact building management or the Metropolitan Police Department. Agreements with building management allow for adjudication of off-campus student behavior when appropriate.

Resident Not So Sure

A recent newsletter from Councilmember Jack Evans welcomes "GW's new initiative to handle community complaints regarding problem behavior of students on

and off campus." The initiative encompasses a new plan whereby complaints to GWU's Police Department (security guard, actually) will be shared with GW officials who will follow up with appropriate disciplinary action. GW students moving off campus will receive an official written guide on their responsibility as a Foggy Bottom resident and will be held accountable for their actions by the University.

I hope that no one out there believes that calling GWU's security guards does any good where the complaint involves students on non-GWU property. If I were to call those security guards, what could they do? The answer is NOTHING! (That's the way it should be. If my child were attending that business [GWU, Inc.] and security guards came to his non-GWU house or apartment and even breathed "enforcement," I'd see GWU in court post haste. Needing help with student misbehavior is one thing, but civil rights are another. See Mr. Trachtenberg? I don't hate students.)

Residents should not buy this bunk about calling GW security guards on student disturbances outside of GW property. The Metropolitan Police Department should be called. This is the law enforcement authority that should be helping us. Realize this, however: GWU surely prefers that we call its security guards instead of MPD, and MPD probably prefers that we call the security guards and not them. (I'm not sure of this but I have been told that MPD turns some complaints over to GWU security guards without taking any action.) That keeps the community in a sandwich, and everyone happy—except the oppressed residents who continue to lose to the certain population of rowdy, disruptive, offensive students and the uncaring, steamrolling business in which they are enrolled.

GW's new initiative will not put a dent in solving the off-campus problems caused by its students. It's just lip service as usual.

CALL MPD!

Mel Maeda
I Street

CLASSIFIEDS

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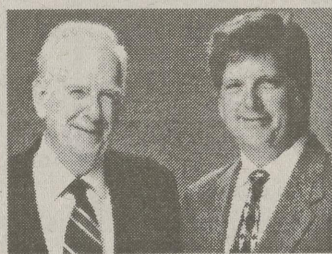
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Bobb, from page 1

sponse to requests for service, and of actions affecting the neighborhood without prior notice. Some of the items concerned dangerous sidewalks unrepaired for up to a year; a blocked drain on the walkway between 25th Street and Virginia Avenue; the takeover without notice of the parkland at 27th and K for a storage and staging area; the lack of a Ward 2 transportation planner for over a year; and frequent non-response to notification of problems to be solved.

Bobb indicated that DDOT "is a bright spot among District agencies," but said he would ask them to respond to the complaints. He suggested that DDOT Director Dan Tangherlini be asked to attend a future meeting of the Association to "face the music."

Proposed Amendments to the FBA Bylaws

Material to be deleted appears in **bold type**; new material is underlined.

Article II. Membership, Dues and Meetings. Section 3. Dues. (2nd sentence). Dues paid at least **thirty sixty (30)(60)** days prior to the June election will establish membership for the fiscal year ending June 30th and entitle members to vote in elections at the regular June FBA meeting.

Article III. Executive Board. Section 1. Executive Board. The property and affairs of the FBA shall be managed by an Executive Board hereinafter referred to as the Board. The Board shall consist of thirteen **voting** members: five officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-

ship Director); two ex-officio **voting nonvoting** members (the Editor of the Foggy Bottom News and the immediate Past President of the FBA) and six at-large members.

Section 2. Elections. With the exception of the two ex-officio members, officers and other members of the Board must be elected by secret ballot of those members present at the regular June FBA meeting, **and shall serve for the ensuing fiscal year and shall serve for the ensuing three fiscal years** or until their successors have been elected and take office. **If only one nominee is put up for any position the requirement for a secret ballot is waived and the nominee shall be declared elected by acclamation.** No person shall be elected to more than one office.

Article VI. Committees. Section 1. Nominating Committee. There shall be a Nominating Committee of not less than five persons, the chairman and members of which shall be designated by the Board not later than **March April** 1st of each year, **subject to the subsequent ap-**

Briefly

FBA Files Amicus Brief

The Foggy Bottom Association is filing an amicus brief in a case brought by the Columbia Plaza Tenants Association against the George Washington University. The tenants group is asking the court to determine if the sale "triggered" the tenants' right of first refusal to buy their buildings. A local law firm is preparing the FBA's brief on a pro bono basis.

The West End Library has scheduled a "Newsmania" Washington, D.C. Facts Trivia, and invites residents to come and test their knowledge

and memory. The session will team adults with local third-graders, and lunch will be provided by the Fairmont Hotel. Space is limited; call April at 724-8698 to register. The event will be held on Thursday, May 27, at 10:30 a.m.

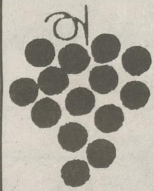
Also, the West End Library is offering two-session internet classes, scheduled for Monday, April 26 and May 3, and on Wednesday, April 28 and May 5. To sign up contact the WEL Reference Desk at 724-8707. The library probably will offer these and basic computing classes (word processing, etc.) at a later date.

proval of the members of the FBA. The Chairman and all members of the Nominating Committee must be members in good standing of the FBA at the time of their designation by the Board. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for submitting the names of persons to be nominated for election as officers or members of the Board

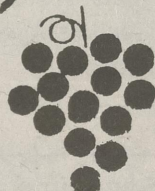
of the FBA at the regular meeting of members in June.

Section 2. Editorial Committee. There shall be a standing Editorial Committee consisting of the Foggy Bottom News (FBN) Editor, FBA President, and **five** other persons appointed by the President, who shall also designate the chairman of the Committee.

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The Foggy Bottom Diner

By James Patterson

McFadden's Restaurant

McFadden's Restaurant and Saloon celebrated its highly successful first year at 2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.—the former location of Micks. New diners will notice some changes in layout. The street level entrance leads to a full service bar. Downstairs there is another full service bar which separates the smoking and non-smoking dining rooms.

Chef Ryan Jedrey says, "The location is great and the community has been super-supportive." I can attest to this; on a recent chilly, wet Wednesday there must have been 500 people on both levels. And I was expecting a tranquil dining experience! There are dozens of overhead TVs scattered about with fa-

miliar rock standards adding to the great atmosphere. The only problem is too much smoke. "We're getting smoke-eaters," says Jedrey.

I enjoyed the robust chicken and roasted corn chowder, \$4.50, as my appetizer. I can also say the fried calamari, \$6.50, is delicious and served with two tangy sauces.

For my entree I had the shrimp scampi, \$14, which was served just right on angel hair pasta and white sauce. It was a very satisfying dish. The herb roasted salmon, \$14, is a definite for my next visit. Overall my meal was affordable, tasty and the atmosphere was casual and friendly.

McFadden's is also a great place for lunch with an assortment of popular sandwiches priced under \$10. McFadden's "Almost Famous" buffalo chicken sandwich, \$8.95, is tempting. From the grill, ribs and fried chicken are popular. Pub standards are heavy on wings, chicken fingers, fries, and calamari.

Bar offerings include McFadden's Classic martini (3 parts Belvedere vodka) at \$8.50. The Bloody Mary is \$6.50. I enjoyed Sharp's non-alcoholic beer. White, red and sparkling wines are also on the menu by glass or bottle.

In addition to affordable prices, fine food, and great atmosphere, the waitresses are beautiful and very efficient. Chef Jedrey extends a warm invitation to you to visit McFadden's soon. For reservations call 223-2338. Open Monday at 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday-Saturday from 11:00 a.m. till 1:30 a.m.

My tastebuds approve of McFadden's! Yours will too. Be sure to tell your lovely waitress you read about her in the Foggy Bottom Diner.

Jim Patterson is a local writer and critic.

**Tell them you
saw it in the
Foggy Bottom
News**

Hotel, from page 1

raised that specter by asking: "And what will you do if the hotel goes dark?" That outlandish proposition is highly unlikely.

There are investors, skilled in managing luxury hotels, intent on restoring the famed Watergate Hotel and restoring its elite status. Think about it. The interest is solid. The property is expensive, not the type of site a budget-conscious corporation seeks. Cheap chains look for cheap sites.

Is the Hotel Underperforming?

Some question whether another hotel would succeed if the Watergate Hotel is underperforming. Is it? Monument's submission never states that the hotel is losing money or is in any way financially sinking. "The average room rate achieved in the hotel," they say, "has declined," and the hotel has "lost its competitive position." Due, perhaps, to allowing its services to deteriorate while in this limbo?

Room rates may have "declined" but Watergate has not. We are a thriving community and do not need a "white knight." It is because we are so attractive, ripe for the picking of huge profits, that we are the developer's target. We, who live here, have a heavy investment in the Watergate complex and in the strength of its multi-functional plan. We are not interested in becoming simply another residential warren.

The Zoning Commission is an objective body that will make its own decision. Let's wait for their decision before pronouncing the death of our heritage.

Dr. Crane is a member of the Committee to Preserve the Watergate Heritage, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to promote historical preservation in the District of Columbia, including the preservation of the Watergate complex heritage. It filed an application for historic landmark designation of the complex on February 13, 2004.

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Neighborhood Datebook

Monday, April 26: Foggy Bottom Association monthly meeting, with **Barbara Zartman** of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City as featured speaker, as well as brief remarks about a proposed FB farmers market. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. All residents welcome. 7:30 p.m.*

Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2: Jackson Art Center Spring Open Studio show and art sale, featuring works by several artists who reside in Foggy Bottom. Jackson Art Center, 3048-1/2 R Street, N.W. Info: 337-3373. 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m.

Monday, May 3: "The Fabulous Faberge Eggs," illustrated slide lecture by Nicholas B.A. Nicholson, expert in Russian works of art. Corcoran Gallery of Art. Members only. 7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, May 4: Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing on the proposed new house at the rear of 936 26th Street (**Hughes Mews**). Zoning Hearing Room, 441 Fourth Street, N.W. (Judiciary Square Metro). 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 4: Concert by violinist **Mihai Craioveanu**, accompanied by Irina Kats, with selections by Leclair, Grieg, Gounod, Verdi, Bizet, and Gershwin. Cosponsored and reception by Embassy of Romania. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.**

Monday, May 10: "Cuban Elegance" slide talk and book signing, featuring "a fresh perspective on an intriguing country." Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$18; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 12: Concert featuring **May Knott Quartet** performing repertoire of "great songwriters" (Kern, Porter, Carmichael, etc.). Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12: Stroke Prevention & Treatment, presented by Perry Richardson, M.D. GW Hospital. 7:00-8:30 p.m. ##

Thursday, May 13: "Quilts as Codes: Secrets of the Underground Railroad," lecture by Dr. Raymond Dobard, Professor of Art History, Howard University, followed by viewing of The Quilts of Gee's Bend exhibit. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$25; members \$20. 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, May 13: Zoning Commission hearing on **GW Health & Wellness Center** to receive information requested at the last hearing on usage of the center, the impact of new memberships, and that the university is in compliance with the campus plan. Zoning Hearing Room, 441 4th Street, N.W. (Judiciary Square Metro). 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 15: Recital with **bass-baritone Max Wittges**, accompanied by Jeffrey Smith, performing music by

Robert Schumann, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi, and Richard Wagner. St. Paul's Parish, 2430 K Street, N.W. Info: 337-2020. \$15; students & seniors \$10. 7:30 p.m.*

Friday, May 13: Meet the **Artists of the National Symphony Orchestra** series, featuring James Conlon. Included in this "insider's perspective on great music" are excerpts on that evening's works, the inspiration and challenges the artists experience, dinner in a private reception room, followed by the concert. \$35; subscribers/members \$33. 6:00-7:45 p.m. Kennedy Center Atrium. #

Monday, May 17: Behind the Scenes Tour of **A Streetcar Named Desire** set, conducted by production head Mickey Berra and operations manager Deirdre Kelly Lavrakas. \$10; subscribers/members \$8. 6:00-7:30 p.m. #

Monday, May 17: "Turkeys and Triumphs—A Night at the Movies with Richard Brown," examining how ten 2003 films succeeded or failed. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$16. 7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, May 18: "The Art of Leonardo: The Da Vinci Code Deciphered," with Dr. Jeannine O'Grody relating the "real story" behind the best-selling book. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 19: "Defining Personal Style," by "fashion guru" Deb Waterman Johns, discussing the elements that define style. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$14; members \$10. 7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 19: Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting. Info: 736-1775. Tentative location: State Plaza Hotel, 2116 F Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19: **Congestive Heart Failure**, presented by Richard Katz, M.D., and Reginald Robinson, M.D., describing the diseases which can damage the heart and affect its pumping ability. GW Hospital. 7:00-8:30 p.m. ##

Thursday, May 20: **Aging, Agility & Arthritis**, presented by James Katz, M.D. GW Hospital. 2:00-4:00 p.m. ##

Saturday, May 22: St. Mary's Court **25th Anniversary concert**, featuring the Metropolitan Baptist Church Gospel Choir. Reception follows. GWU Media Building, 801 21st Street, N.W. \$30.00. Info & tickets: 223-5712. 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday, May 23: St. Mary's Court **25th Anniversary gathering** of residents, dignitaries, and friends. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. 1:30-3:30 p.m. *

Monday, May 24: Foggy Bottom Association monthly meeting. This meeting is scheduled for the fourth rather than the last Monday of the month to avoid Memorial Day.

*See article elsewhere in this issue.

**500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770.

#Part of Performance Plus program of Kennedy Center's Education Department. Info and/or tickets: 416-4600.

Info & registration: 1-888-449-3627. GW Hospital Auditorium, 900 23rd Street, N.W.



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- Please close my lid tightly after stuffing me with trash—I don't like rats any more than you do.
- Please take me out to the curb after 6:00 p.m. on Monday (Tuesday following a Monday holiday) and Thursday, so I can be emptied. How would you like to be stuffed all the time? It makes me feel so bloated!
- Then, just as important, please rescue me and bring me in as soon as you can after I am emptied. The wind has no mercy; it tosses me about and sometimes I get lost in some unfamiliar yard—it is scary. (Maybe you could paint my house-number on my side so I can be rescued.)
- Finally, if you must keep me in your front yard for the whole world to gawk at, then try to hide me behind some bushes or some other inconspicuous place. I get downright embarrassed being on display and forever ogled—especially by tourists; they often make comments and I almost turn red.
- If you have an unusual amount of non-perishable trash, save it until Friday. The amount of trash for pickup is lighter on Friday and there is more room in the trucks.
- Remember it's the law and common sense: trash, especially garbage, must be inside trashcans. Otherwise rats have a field day. The city will provide sturdy Tony Williams trashcans or recycling bins; just call 727-1000.

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